

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1 and 6 are objected to because of minor informalities.

Claims 1 and 5-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,531,329 to Asakura et al.

Claims 1, 5, 7 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,678,029 to Suzuki in view of Asakura et al.

Claims 2-4 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

A Revocation and Power of Attorney Appointment of New Agent, Change of Correspondence Address and Attorney Docket Number is submitted concurrently.

Claims 2 and 4 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to include features of previous claim 2. New independent claim 12 has been added that includes the features of previous claims 1 and 4. New claims 13-15 have been added, which depend upon new independent claim 12. New independent claim 16 has been added that includes the features of previous claims 4 and 7. New claims 17-20 have been added, which depend upon new independent claim 16. Accordingly, claims 1, 3, and 5-20 are presently pending.

The Claims Do Not Contain Objectionable Subject Matter

Claim 1 stands objected to because of a minor informality in the phrase “vent portions” in line 9 of original claim 1. Claim 6 stands objected to because of a minor informality in the phrase “with” in line 2 of original claim 6. By way of the foregoing Amendment, Applicant has deleted the phrase “vent portions” from newly amended independent claim 1 and has amended claim 6 to recite --within-- instead of "with." Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the objection to claims 1 and 6 are now moot. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the objections to claims 1 and 6 be withdrawn.

All Claims Comply with 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1 and 5-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,531,329 to Asakura et al. Claims 1, 5, 7 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,678,029 to Suzuki in view of Asakura et al. The Examiner is thanked for the indication that original claims 2-4 are objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In accordance with this indication, independent claims 1 and 7 have been amended to include the features of original claim 2. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that newly amended independent claims 1 and 7 are in prima-facie condition for allowance. Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. In addition, claim 3 has been amended to now depend from newly-amended independent claim 1. Dependent claims 5, 6 and 8-11 are allowable at least because of their dependence on independent claims 1 and 7, as amended. Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections is thus respectfully requested.

New Claims 12-20 are Allowable

Applicant respectfully submits that new independent claims 12 and 16 are in condition for allowance since new independent claims 12 and 16 include, amongst other features, the features of previous claim 4, which the Final Office Action indicates to be allowable subject matter. Further, there is no description or suggestion in the cited art of record of such a combination of features recited in new independent claims 12 and 16. Dependent claims 13-15 and 17-20 are allowable at least because of their dependence on independent claims 12 and 16. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that new independent claims 12-20 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant requests the entry of this Amendment to place the application in clear condition for allowance or, in the alternative, in better form for appeal.

Applicant also requests the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 08-1641. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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